



Allandale Neighbor

February 2015
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DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 4,500 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

A Letter From Our District 7 Representative, Leslie Pool

Leslie Pool

Thank you, Allandale neighbors, for the opportunity to communicate with you through your neighborhood newsletter.

My first month-and-a-half as your District 7 representative has been incredibly busy and invigorating. The active pace of my work schedule, along with conversations I'm having with constituents in Allandale and other neighborhoods, has solidified my belief that we are truly a dynamic and engaged community.

I'm really happy that so many residents in the district have reached out to me with feedback or questions about particular issues. Thank you for any input you provided

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Not in Our Backyards: ANA's Resolution Opposing Accessory Dwelling Units

Tom Linehan

Need a little help keeping up with Austin's high cost of living? You like it here but that \$10,000 plus a year property tax bill REALLY HURTS! It keeps climbing but your income doesn't.

Continued on page 3

Allandale Seminar Series Continued

Laura Beck

We had an amazing tree pruning seminar in mid-January with a true tree celebrity. Don Gardner drew in over 40 people, standing room only, for so many invaluable tips, absolutely free to ANA members, and only \$5 for other attendees. That was a steal—google Don, he's really impressive!

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It's My Park Day! Join Us Saturday, March 7

Laura Beck

We in Allandale are blessed to have an amazing and huge green space with Northwest Park, but it all could use a little more love, so we are asking you to join us Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, at Northwest District Park, for some com-

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Renew Your Membership Today!

Annual membership dues are still just \$7–\$15 per household. If you haven't done so yet, please send in your dues today!

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EDITOR Laura Beck
ADVERTISING Cathy Savage, 348-8237
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com
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ADVERTISERS AND CONTRIBUTING
WRITERS

CONTACT INFORMATION
Allandale Neighbor,
PO Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766-1886
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

ANA Executive Committee

PRESIDENT Kata Carbone
VICE PRESIDENT Marshall Thompson
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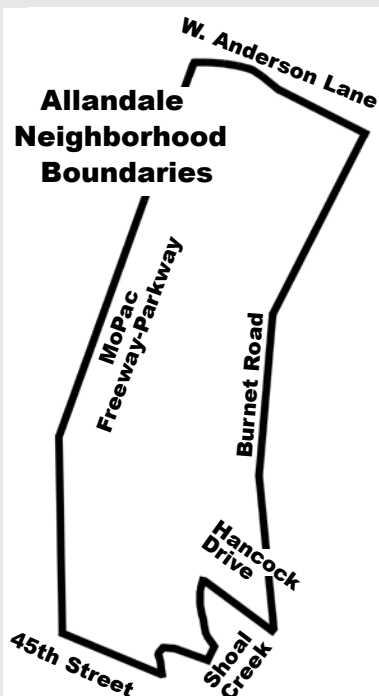
ANA General Meetings are held March and September on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.

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ANC REP David Orshalick

Allandale Police District Rep.

APD Region 1 District Rep (serves Allandale north of Hancock): Ofc. Jud Chapman, 974-4705, judson.chapman@austintexas.gov
APD Region 2 District Rep (serves Allandale south of Hancock): Ofc. Josh Metteauer, 974-8124, joshua.metteauer@austintexas.gov



President's Letter

Kata Carbone

ANA activity slowed down in December and January, but no matter what the proverbial groundhog says, our winter hibernation is over.

Last year at this time, we broached the difficult subject of eliminating ANA's \$25,000 debt related to the Northcross/Walmart lawsuit and we asked for your help. The legal firm that represented ANA agreed to waive nearly \$10,000 if we raise \$15,000 by the end of 2015. Thanks to your generosity, we now owe only \$2,500.

Our **Land Development Code (LDC) committee** has its hands full monitoring potential changes to Austin's building codes that would drastically diminish many of the features of single-family zoning that we enjoy today. On January 15, LDC committee members Allan McMurry and Steven Zettner joined forces with Brentwood's Don Leighton-Burwell in presenting three visions for future development along Burnet Road and Anderson Lane (the City's "corridor plans") at a standing-room-only panel discussion held at Yarborough Library.

ANA's **Membership committee** kicked off our annual membership drive with some great reasons to join the neighborhood association. If you didn't receive a letter from committee chair Anetta Paver, you can find it on our website and Facebook pages. The committee's first monthly seminar series, the Tree Pruning Workshop with consulting arborist Don Gardner, was held on January 25, another standing-room-only event. Thanks to Anetta Paver, Laura Beck, and Peggy Maceo for organization, set-up and clean-up, and to our friends at Shoal Creek

Nursery for graciously hosting this top-notch event for the fifth year in a row.

Up next in the series: **February 28, Take 10 CPR Training** at Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive. Drop in any time between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. for a 10-minute CPR training (led by our Safety committee chair, Laura DiCarlo, and co-sponsored by Gullett). You won't want to miss the Safety Seminar on March 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive. We'll hear about safety from our APD district representative, Officer Joshua Metteauer, and City of Austin chief prosecutor Bianca Bentzin will talk about traffic laws.

ANA's Bull Creek Road Coalition (BCRC) committee chair Robert McDougal and members Joe Reynolds and Sara Speights attended the "Community Vision Workshops" on January 21 and 28, held by MileStone Community Builders. MileStone purchased the 75-acre tract of land at Bull Creek Road and 45th Street from the State of Texas in December. The workshops provided an overview of the company, gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions of MileStone's personnel, including CEO Garrett Martin, and enabled attendees to fill out a paper survey indicating various choices related to density levels, housing types, amount of open space, amenities, and retail options. Mr. Martin anticipates that 1,000 survey respondents (the survey was also available online for about a week) will form the basis for development. Survey takers were asked to provide their email addresses and phone numbers "to preserve the integrity of the survey and to discourage false responses." Asked how stringent respondent validation will be, Mr. Martin said they will "do their best."

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Survey results will be provided shortly.

MileStone will continue to meet with BCRC and neighborhood association representatives on a weekly basis and expects a development decision process—that adheres to four basic ground rules: honesty, integrity, common ideology, and compromise—to take five or six months. Robert McDougal reports that in the meantime, any questions for MileStone can be addressed to: info@milestonebullcreek.com.

We can always use more help. If you're interested in serving on any committee, please contact me (512-454-6571, allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com) or any of the ANA EC members or committee chairs to volunteer. ❖

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Not in Our Backyards: ANA's Resolution Opposing Accessory Dwelling Units

Continued from front page

Here's an idea: add a second story to your detached garage and rent it out. While a property tax exemption that may amount to \$400 a year on an average Allandale home would be welcome, an extra \$800 a month in rental income would be real relief.

The City has proposed relaxing requirements related to building accessory dwelling units (ADUs) or "granny flats," making it easier to have them in neighborhoods where zoning allows. The City Planning Commission is working out new rules that, if finalized by Council, will make it easier for some homeowners to add a secondary unit to their property.

Currently, if you want an ADU, you're required to have three off-street parking spaces. That's not something most homes have and it's expensive to add.

ADUs in Allandale are rare. That's because much of the neighborhood is zoned SF-2 which doesn't allow for ADUs except for a "non-paying use."

In addition, many Allandale homes have attached garages. There's no drive-

way to the backyard where an ADU would be situated.

Regardless, the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) weighed in on the matter. At February's ANA Executive Committee meeting, it passed a resolution in opposition to ADU code changes originally brought to City Council by former council members Riley and Martinez.

The Allandale resolution, sponsored by Allan McMurtry and the ANA Land Development Code Committee he chairs, strongly opposes relaxing the City's ADU rules. Meeting minutes regarding passage of the resolution read as follows:

"The Allandale Neighborhood Association Executive Committee opposes the ordinance amending City Code Title 25 related to reducing regulatory barriers to the development of Accessory Dwelling Units and will submit our resolution to the Austin City Council and relevant Commissions."

Continued on page 4



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Not in Our Backyards: ANA's Resolution Opposing Accessory Dwelling Units

Continued from front page

Allandale's opposition is in synch with other central city neighborhoods. The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) opposed the changes in part because of the reduction in parking requirements—it puts more cars on already crowded streets—but also because it sidesteps the CodeNEXT revision process and neighborhood plans.

A big rub for ANA seems to be the impact the code change will have on neighborhood deed restrictions. Four of the first five resolution bullet points concern ADUs diluting the force of deed restrictions as shown by this excerpt: "Whereas the ordinance amending City Code Title 25 relating to reducing regulatory barriers to the development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), City of Austin Resolution No. 20140612-062:

- Violates the essential elements of deed restricted neighborhoods in Austin.
- Creates a moral hazard by encouraging development in violation of restrictions agreed to by all buyers in the subdivision, filed in Travis County, and approved by the City of Austin.
- Monetizes the value of a home at the expense of future and existing homeowners.
- Lays a heavy and costly burden on citizens who have paid taxes and supported this City should they decide to defend their deed restrictions.
- Initiates a serious step in the eventual termination of all deed restrictions by City of Austin.

When contacted, our newly-elected District 7 Council Member Leslie Pool said "since the proposed changes will only affect

those neighborhoods that have already chosen to allow secondary apartments, I am supportive of the draft changes at this time." She added that "removing parking requirements for units under 550 square feet is an attempt to encourage development of small units that are most likely to be affordable."

According to Pool, "secondary apartments can offer affordability and walkability for workers, students, caregivers, elderly parents, and homeowners who seek home offices." She pointed out that "a rental unit can also provide an income stream for the owner, offering some relief for substantial property taxes, insurance, and maintenance costs."

In contrast, David Orshalick, Allandale's representative to the ANC, feels that "less-restricted ADUs are the wrong solution to the problem of affordable housing and reflect the thinking and actions of the old City Council." He calls for "some real leadership and solutions by the new City Council for the problems of inflation, density, and traffic."

Orshalick pointed out that Austin code already provides for secondary apartments. He asked us to consider these questions: "Where has increased density lowered the cost of living anywhere else in the country? If traffic is already bad, why not widen our roads before adding density? But most importantly, why relax any code requirements that protect neighborhood quality of life?" He also wonders if this inadequate, stop-gap measure for affordable housing is "really all about developers and property owners profiting at the expense of the rest of us."

In accordance with the Association's bylaws, it is ANA's responsibility "to promote and protect the quality of life, safety, residential characteristics, and property values of the neighborhood..." This becomes an increasing challenge for Allandale in a city that's trying to squeeze more in.

For now, Allandale relies on its SF-2 zoning, deed restrictions, and the McMansion ordinance to protect its long-standing, single-family neighborhood character. And, as one of the few remaining Austin neighborhoods without a neighborhood plan, Allandale has opted to await the conclusion of CodeNEXT before developing one.

With ANA's resolution, our neighborhood association is making it clear, deed restrictions matter. Do not weaken them. ❖

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A Letter From Our District 7 Representative, Leslie Pool

Continued from front page

during our Town Hall on January 22. I was especially touched by the number of people who were able to address the city council that night by way of the old-fashioned telephone— one of several avenues available for residents to communicate their thoughts about how city government should operate. If you weren't able to attend or tune in for the town hall, a video of the meeting is available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2015/20150120-spec.htm>.

I know many of you agree there is a lot of excitement about our new city council and the reforms we're making to raise the curtain on City Hall and improve the communication between residents and council members. Meantime, my colleagues and I have been taking advantage of a fairly new city resource, an online message board, which enables council members and staff to post questions or

ideas and engage in an informal discussion with one another in a way that the public can follow by logging into <http://austincouncilforum.org>. And of course, there is a companion website (www.SpeakUpAustin.org) for residents to weigh in on the changes we're making.

We're also committing to a full-immersion series of public discussions on important policy issues that impact the city and region. At least two of them will have taken place before this newsletter went to press, but videos of the forums are archived on the city's website. Look for our complete schedule and topics for discussion here: <http://coacf10i.austintexas.gov/urls/?5QV4H4>.

By the time you read this, some of the changes we're making will already be wending their way to fruition. The most dramatic change—a more apt description is “trial run”— is the expansion of city council committees, which will allow every policy matter to receive a thorough vetting prior to their arrival on the full council's agenda. This still allows for public hearings before the full council— but the goal is to have the

information on an issue sufficiently developed before that time.

Additionally, we will have more frequent council meetings to avoid important decisions being made in the wee hours of the morning. My vision is for those meetings to be the place where decisions are made, not where information is gathered. I would like to have more time to gather commentary and opinions earlier in the process so I have more time to consider them and request additional information.

An important component of these changes is contained in a resolution I sponsored at the January 29 council meeting to create a task force on community engagement. The council-appointed task force will identify and catalog the many ways people currently communicate with the city. This will be an enormous and important undertaking, but the end result—an enhanced and expanded capacity for two-way information flow— will help ensure that District 7 and every other district shares equally in the opportunities and benefits of Austin. ❖



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It's My Park Day! Join Us March 7

Continued from front page

munity tree mulching. A smaller-scale project—trail building—will take place at the same time at the Allandale Shoal Creek Greenbelt, just south of 2222. The Austin Parks Foundation helps coordinate –and fund–these work days, and will provide us with loads of mulch. Neighbors of any age –kids too– are welcome to come help, even if just for a half hour. Come wearing yardwork-friendly clothes, bring a water bottle, and we'll provide the rest! Hope to see you March 7. ❖

It's My Park Day!
Come on out—help beautify
Allandale and meet
some neighbors!
March 7, NW District Park
or Allandale Shoal Creek
Greenbelt, 9 am - 12 pm

Allandale Seminar Series Continued

Continued from front page

And we are keeping it going! The next two months include:

February: TAKE10 CPR Training, February 28, Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive; drop in any time between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. for a 10-minute CPR training (co-sponsored by Gullett). More below!

March: Safety Seminar with our APD district representative, Officer Metteauer, March 26, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive. ❖



Take 10 minutes to learn how
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Date: February 28, 2014
Time: 12:30pm-2:30pm, Drop in
Location: Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland Drive

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www.takeheartaustin.org

TAKE10 Compression Only CPR Training

Laura DiCarlo

Did you know that cardiovascular disease (CVD)—including heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure—is the number 1 killer of women and men in the United States? It is a leading cause of disability and costs the United States over \$300 billion each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) website (www.cdc.gov).

There are many things you can do to cut your risk of getting CVD, including:

- a healthy diet
- exercise
- getting your cholesterol checked regularly
- not smoking.

But what can you do to help others who may be suffering? You can learn CPR! In the Austin and Travis County area, 80% of cardiac arrests occur at home, so the life you save is likely to be

that of someone you love!

Since February is American Heart Month and is all about hearts and love, the Allandale Neighborhood Association Safety committee will be hosting its third annual FREE TAKE10 Compression Only CPR class on Saturday, February 28: drop in any time from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Northwest Recreation Center (see flier on this page). This year we're teaming up with the Gullett Elementary Wellness committee, who will also be offering the training on February 25, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. during their wellness night.

TAKE10 stands for "Take 10 minutes to learn compression-only CPR" and was created here in Austin by the "Take Heart Austin" initiative. It's fast, free, and effective! It teaches the simple skill of compression-only CPR and builds confidence in learners. The model is that people in neighborhoods are trained (Louis Gonzales from the Austin-Travis County Office of the Medical Director trained five participants on December 10 at NW Rec including the Gullett PTA Wellness Chair and me) and then we train others to do compression only CPR. You can learn

more at www.takeheartaustin.org.

There is a lot to remember with traditional CPR including the mouth to mouth part, but compression only CPR is very simple, and can double a person's chance of survival.

Here is more important info about CPR:

- Nearly 383,000 out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests occur annually
- Cardiac arrest can occur at any age, to men and women, and at any time
- Many victims appear healthy until cardiac arrest occurs
- Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim's chance of survival
- Your actions can only help a person in cardiac arrest.

Be ready to act – Learn TAKE10 Compression Only CPR in our 10 minute class on February 28. We'll start at 12:30 p.m. and keep repeating the class until 2:30, so stop by whenever it's convenient for you. ❖

Allandale Eating

Laura Beck

If you've been following along since my first pieces on Peached Tortilla and Lucy's Fried Chicken, I'm a food fan. Not a foodie, by any means. No, some of my very faves are the homemade potato chips with ranch, blue cheese and bacon at Pluckers, and my friends know I lost my mind when Tacodeli and its amazing queso moved into the hood. My entire family goes nuts for the Texadelphia mustard blend (more on that later), so while we are food fans, we are not foodies.

But man, are we in the heart of it all for either! I wrote a blog post two years ago on all the goodness right near our hood – see <http://www.stripedshirtblog.com/2013/02/north-central-the-heart-of-austins-stomach/>.

The only changes are that there is another Tacodeli closer, and Omlettry will eventually be a bit farther away. Good stuff then and now, take a look! And it just keeps growing, and so, we have this Allandale Eating column. I welcome your tips, suggestions, recommendations, especially because my preferences are not everyone's, as in, I'm a Boston girl who does not eat seafood. Not a teeny bit. Nothing from under the sea. Drives my husband crazy.

OK, onward, very exciting things to talk about this issue – the old Junior League strip mall, right next to Poodle Dog –er, I mean, the Aristocrat Lounge (whatever)– is being taken over by amazing food: Barley Swine, Bufalina and Lick. I cannot wait! Bufalina is fantastic pizza, and the original location on the east side is just plain cool. Barley Swine is still on our list, all these years later. Every

time we've tried to go, far too long a wait for old tired parents. But Odd Duck is outstanding and perhaps two Barley Swine locations will help manage demand. While I haven't tried Lick Ice Cream myself, it has many fans, who venture way south to Lamar for its unique flavors and the super nice owners. Lick will be opening soonest, with the other two following in the fall. Let's keep watch on 6555 Burnet for more great food options right in our backyard!

And, open right now, is a little secret just between the amazing Epicerie and Fonda San Miguel– Republic of Sandwich, at 2320 Hancock Drive, open Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Holy YUM! I haven't tried their breakfast yet, but in sandwiches, three for three! The Jive Turkey adds cherry pepper spread, pepperjack, and basil pesto to your standard turkey sammie. The Roast Beast adds peppernade and horseradish cream. Both great, but can't come close to the greatest –the Earl– roasted pork, smoked ham, pickles, Swiss cheese, mustard.

Mama Mia! Go get one now! And check out more at <http://www.republicofsandwich.com/>.

But, as I hinted about earlier, there is bad news in the hood: our own Texadelphia, destination of takeout dinner for our family at least three times a

month, is no more. Seemingly overnight it turned into Delaney's Icehouse. Same owners of the location, but no longer a franchise of Texadelphia, so totally new menu which, you guessed it, means you have to haul up to Great Hills to get mustard blend. NOT happy.

You can understand why I really wanted to dislike the place overall, yet, giving it a try for lunch, it was a good burger. It's a nice place, a casual hang out for the neighborhood, grab a drink, patio to watch sports, come with the family after little league practice, etc. Menu is basic but functional– burgers, wings, salads, tacos, nachos, a kids menu. And, in addition to good craft beer options, a full bar and wine. And drink specials every day, Monday through Friday, 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. (teachers take note!), with five dollar beer, wine, Mules, Sangrias. Also good happy hour food specials, so begrudgingly, I say Welcome to the Hood, Delaney's at 7849 Shoal Creek Boulevard, open every day 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and midnight on Friday and Saturday. ❖



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AVG DAYS ON MARKET	45	20	32
AVG \$/SQ FT	\$207	\$235	\$255
MAX PRICE SOLD	\$735,000	\$790,000	\$856,250
MIN PRICE SOLD	\$184,500	\$277,500	\$300,000

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for single family residence as of January 7, 2015. For detailed market information about your home contact Jason Heffron, Broker.

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Neighbor Spotlight: Sara Schaubert, DVM, Healing Arts Housecalls

Laura Beck

How many of us can say they really, truly became what they said they wanted to be when they grew up? As early as age six, Sara Schaubert always answered this question with “vet,” and sure enough, after undergrad and vet school at A&M, she has been a practicing veterinarian for 16 years! About 1.5 years ago, she hung out her own shingle and started Healing Arts Housecalls, her own veterinary practice focused on working with pets (and their owners) in the comfort of their own homes. Sara’s focus is on specialized services like acupuncture, hospice and euthanasia. She does not do basic wellness, checkups or shots, nor surgeries. But the value of seeing pets in their home, in their comfortable environment, is unique and special. Sara says a normal visit is a full hour, so she can truly see the pet holistically for a full assessment. The initial excitement wears off and Sara interacts with the pet naturally, where it sleeps, eats, plays, amid other influences in the home. She can share an honest evaluation and provide better advice as she has seen the whole picture.

This is important for needs like acupuncture for say, a cat with chronic kidney or GI issues. Or even more so with hospice and support of the pet, and family, through end of life. Sara can help with pain management for older or terminal pets, as well as euthanasia at home, letting a pet die peacefully in their own home, and with its family. Sara is especially helpful at these highly emotional times, handling all the details, and sharing important guidance, not letting a family make this difficult decision too quickly or wait



Dr. Schaubert with acupuncture patient Katy Sammon

David Starry – Allandale Specialist



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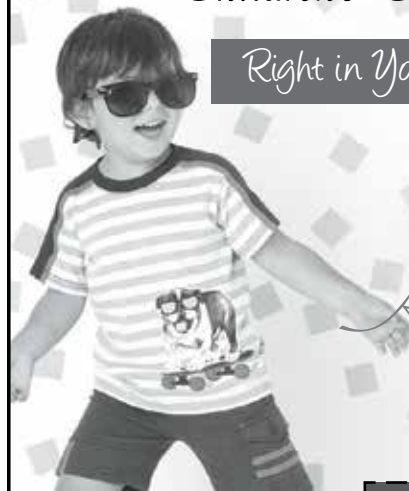
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too long.

"Dr. Schaubert was a gift throughout Gracie's (a beloved family dog) final months," said Ashley Fox. "She was gentle and kind with acupuncture, exams, and through Gracie's passing."

Adds Ashley's fourth grade daughter Anna, "Gracie was all of ours and I'm happy Dr. Schaubert was here because Gracie was happy that she died in her own home. All of us were glad Dr. Schaubert helped us through that sad time."

Sara said when she was with other practices, she was always the slowest, as well as most thorough vet. This may not work well with a rotating door of patients there for rabies or tetanus shots. Now, with this practice, Sara can take her time with her patients and connect in a deeper way, developing long term relationships with cats, dogs, and their people!

Sara and her family have been in Allandale since 2008, when they added a beautiful home to a lot desperately in need of an upgrade. She grew up in Austin and her kids are as well, both at Gullett from kinder onward, one still there, and the other loving Lamar. Oh, and Sara's husband is pretty cool too! Healing Arts Housecalls is always accepting new patients, and Sara is also always happy to consult and provide referrals. With 15 years' experience practicing with vets in



Dr. Schaubert with canine friends Mikki (black) and Lucy (white) Sammon

Austin, she has a deep network. But mostly, Sara would love to add other neighborhood families to her roster, as working in the community and spending time with your special pets, and you, is

what makes her days matter.

Sara can be reached at 512-576-0929 or healingartshousecalls@gmail.com. More at www.healingartshousecalls.com. ❖

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Bug Off! Indianmeal Moths

Wizzie Brown

Indianmeal moths can be found in dog-food, birdseed, cereals, dried fruit, nuts, powdered milk and candy. Adults are small with grayish wings tipped in copper. Larvae are creamy yellow to yellow-green to pink and often crawl along pantry walls. Spun pupal cases are often found along corners and edges of wall areas.

To eliminate a pantry pest problem, the first step is to locate and remove all infested items. Removing infested items is the easy part; finding the infestation is not always so simple. Begin with the oldest food items, usually in the back of the pantry. Inspect everything, including unopened food items since these can also be a source. If you find an infested item, do not stop your inspection, more than one item may be infested.

Throw away infested items. If you don't feel that you can throw away food, place the infested food in a zip-top plastic bag and place it in the freezer for about 5-7 days or spread the infested food item on a baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees



for 4-6 hours to kill any insects. Once all the insects are dead, you can sift the food item or pick out the insects. Of course, you can always just leave the insects in the food and get a little more protein with your meal!

It is extremely important to find the source, and not all pantry pest infestations come from the pantry. Check rooms for items such as dried, decorative peppers, dried flowers, potpourri or rice heating packs.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512-854-9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com. ❖

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Dog Talk: The Magic of “Eight Weeks”

Cheryl Silver csilver2@austin.rr.com, 512-454-7219

For many years I have been working with families on behavioral issues with their dogs. When I gather information about the dog's history with the family I am always saddened when I learned that the family got their pup when it was under eight weeks of age.

Any responsible breeder will keep that pup with its mom and litter until it is at least eight weeks of age. To separate a pup from its litter any earlier reflects a lack of responsibility on the part of the “breeder.” Such a person, in my opinion, is simply a person who makes dogs for profit and certainly not a responsible breeder. At five to six weeks of age pups are a lot of work for humans (they are now mobile, eating solid food and peeing and pooping a great deal), but it is at this age and later that they definitely need to be with their doggy family.

Puppies are born deaf and blind and toothless— in fact, they even count on their mother to stimulate them to urinate and defecate. Neither can they walk at birth, but they do have a burrowing instinct that stimulates them to nuzzle

into their mothers thereby aiding in nursing, warmth retention and muscle development/coordination. Their loud “crying” alerts their mother to their need for attention.

At about 10 days eyes open (although focus is not that great) and by two weeks or a bit more their ears are open. Shortly after that they are able to stand and move around albeit not gracefully. Between six and eight weeks real socialization with others begins.

Imagine— it is only at six to eight weeks that the pups can actually locate littermates and strike out and intentionally interact with others in their environment. Now they can see and approach others and sink those newly emerged teeth into their littermates and their mothers. It is these capacities that allow others to respond to them and for them to learn that “when I sink my little teeth into another with strength they will either yelp at me, respond in kind (their littermates) or walk away from me” (their mothers will do this if they use their teeth with too much pressure when nursing).

This remarkable lesson of how much pressure to use when biting down is referred to as learning about bite inhibition. This lesson cannot be learned developmentally until the pup can see their littermates, move towards them and chomp down because they now have teeth. Many people find themselves with pups who have what is called a “hard mouth” —a lack of ability to modify a “bite” dependent upon the situation— because the dog did not have the opportunity to spend critical weeks between six and eight weeks of age with littermates.

It is a fortunate puppy who is whelped into a multi-pup litter with an attentive mother who is socialized with humans. Pups will learn their attitude about people by observation of their mother's interactions so that a timid fearful mother will



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model that behavior for their offspring whereas a mother who is friendly and relaxed with humans will model that for their little ones.

There is a rather problematic situation where a mother will whelp only one pup aka a "singleton." That pup will not benefit from the critical lessons learned from littermates unless the breeder is responsible enough to ensure that the pup is mixed in with pups of about the same age on a daily basis – something that requires commitment and diligence on the part of the breeder.

I hope this will give you some insights into why you should turn away from any person with pups who is eager to have them placed by six weeks of age or younger. ❖

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Allandale Outside

Ginger Soulé

By the time you receive this, we should be finishing up our second installment of winter with flowering trees ready to burst into bloom. Much then needs to be done before mid-March.

Pruning: Fruit trees if not already done, providing they haven't started blooming; crepe myrtles; shrubs, especially Greggii Sage; rose bushes –not climbers, which should wait until after they bloom– and others you feel need reducing. With the good rains we've had, our fall-planted wildflowers should be doing very well.

Fertilizing: Beware of the ads for weed

& feed products that appear this time of year. Besides harboring dangerous chemicals (atrazine is a known carcinogen), their timing is off for southern climates. Weed preventers such as CORN GLUTEN MEAL should be applied mid- to late January for late winter germinating spring blooming weeds, whereas fertilizers do little good until soil temperatures warm up. Mid-April is the best time for lawn fertilizing. If you have trees in your lawn, the lawn fertilizing will benefit them also. However, no feeding benefits a tree unless it is placed in the feeder root zone of the tree. If your trees are huge, their feeder roots may actually be in your neighbor's yard as a mature tree's roots will extend out one and a half to two times the diameter of the branches. Don't

waste your money on tree spikes as these have been shown by research to be useless. Of course, the very best amendment to apply is compost or Sylvan Formula tree fertilizer. A thin layer one-fourth to one-half of an inch is sufficient. My own yard gets compost in the spring, fertilizer only in late September. Though if a yard has been neglected it would benefit from both this spring.

Helpful products include Natural Gardener 8-2-4 or Medina Growing Green; both granulated fertilizers are excellent for existing plantings of trees, shrubs, lawns, flowering plants and veggies (a light sprinkling for either). Liquid concentrates are also helpful. When planting anything, the best root stimulator is LIQUID SEA-WEED diluted one tablespoon to one gallon of water. I like the Maxi-crop brand which comes from Norway, thus avoiding Fukushima radiation contamination. FISH EMULSION (diluted two tablespoons per gallon) often used in conjunction with seaweed is a general growth stimulant and both can be used as either as a soil drench or a foliar spray. Sprays are absorbed and benefit the plants sooner than soil-applied fertilizers. Drenches are slower than foliar but faster acting than dry applied items. Horticultural molasses, either dry granules or liquid concentrate, is also valuable as it feeds the beneficial soil organisms that help your plants absorb minerals and other nutrients in your soil.

Please don't forget to add compost regularly! Our hot summers burn up (oxidize) valuable humus at a rapid rate so it must be replenished regularly. Also, if you want to boost the nutrient value of veggies you grow, add a light sprinkling of volcanic sands (both Lady Bug and Rabbit Hill Farm brands are good) into rows or pots before planting seeds or into the planting hole when setting out veggie transplants. Pepper plants need the same cold protection but NOT the replanting technique; also, their best production comes in fall.

Pests and diseases: The best defense is a regular fertilizer program, as unhealthy plants attract insects and healthy plants mostly resist diseases. If you have chronic insect problems, add volcanic sands as mentioned above. They can be scratched into the soil around a plant that's already



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planted. Soft-bodied insects, such as aphids and (in hot weather) spider mites are repelled by both regular strong water sprays with a hose nozzle and foliar hand sprays with dilute seaweed. With either, be sure to aim the spray up under leaves and where leaves join stems, especially for spider mites. Covering squash vines with netting will control squash vine borers, though you'll need to open the netting every few days to hand pollinate the female blossoms with a male blossom or a soft bristled brush you've first brushed with pollen.

Netting over tomato plants can prevent stink bugs that "sting" tomatoes making a dark rotting spot, hornworms and other destructive critters. Tomatoes are wind pollinated so need no human assistance. Blossom end-rot can be avoided by even, moderate watering. Tomatoes do not like infrequent heavy watering. Sudden watering onto dry soil causes them to swell too quickly, thus causing the skin to split. When setting out tomatoes early, they can be damaged by temperatures below 45 degrees. So protect them until night tem-

peratures STAY above 45. Alternatively, strip all but upper four leaves and transplant into a deeper pot (almost up to the four leaves). This way, you can bring them in on cold nights and being stem rooters, they will grow a more extensive root system all along the buried stem and will really "take off" rapidly when set out.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Sunshine Community Garden's Annual Certified Organic Plant Sale, at 4814 Sunshine Drive, Austin 78756, (northwest of 45th Street between Burnet and Lamar), featuring tomato, hot/sweet bell peppers, eggplant, and herbs. For more, see <http://www.sunshinecommunitygarden.org/>.

Saturday, March 28, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Gullett Elementary School's plant sale, with vegetables for sale.

Saturday and Sunday, March 28 and 29, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., the Zilker Garden Fest, which includes exhibits, a judged flower show, informational and sales booths for plants, garden related items and food. For more, see

<http://www.zilker garden.org/about/events/zgf2015/zgf.html>.

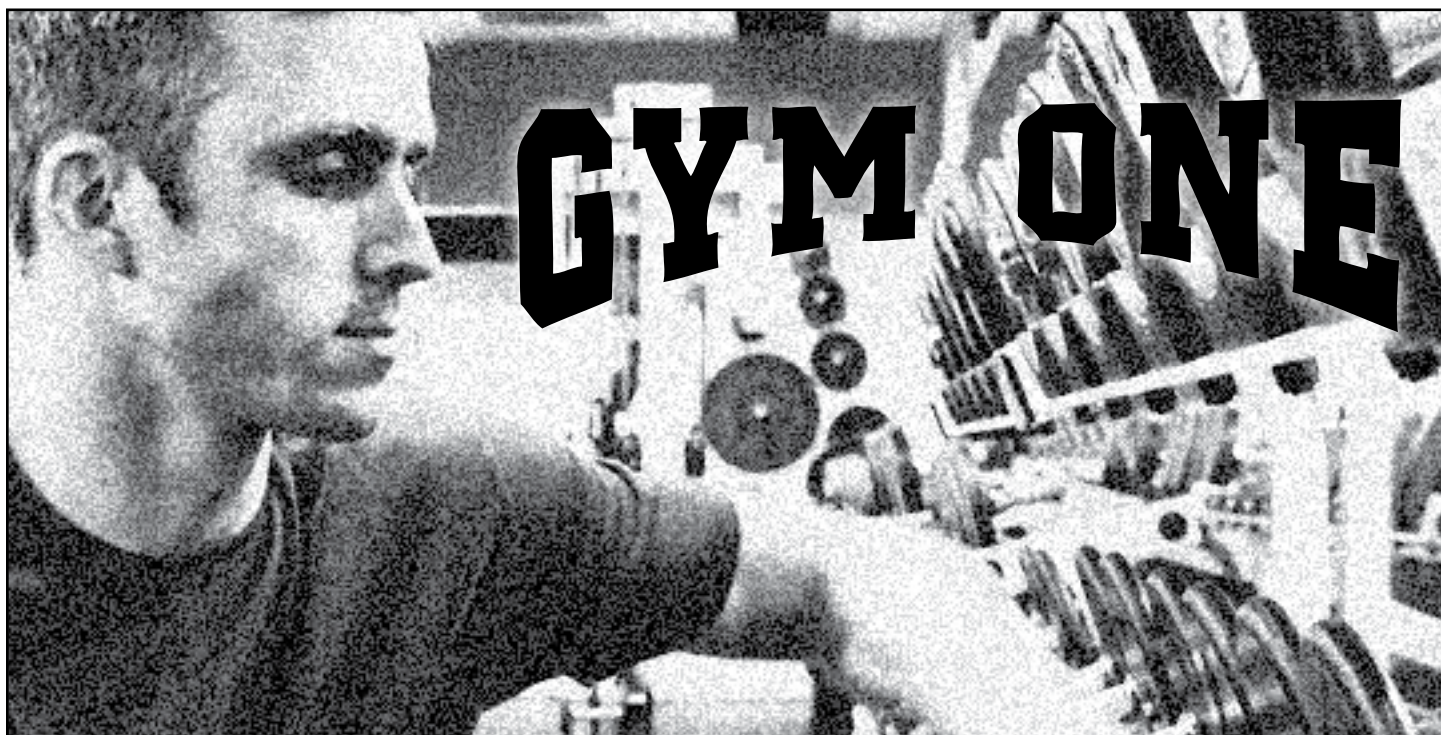
Both The Natural Gardener Nursery and Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center have lists of their events, plants and appropriate planting times too extensive and frequently changing to list here. They can be accessed at: naturalgardeneraustin.com and ladybirdjohnsonwildflowercenteraustin.org.

Happy gardening, Allandale gardeners! ❖

Letters to the Editor:

We'd love for readers to submit newsletter ideas, stories, and reactions to articles.

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Gullett Good News!

Debbie Trominski



Gullett is a school like no other place, and it's a great place to get a quality education in a rewarding environment. The results are in and Gullett has received the highest possible honors from both Austin Independent School District and the Texas Education Agency. Both the district and the state perform their own analysis of school performance. In the district analysis, AISD awarded Gullett exemplary ratings in overall performance and each of nine factors related to community and student engagement. For the state evaluation, the TEA rated Gullett according to the agency's accountability standards and awarded our school with top distinction ratings in each of six possible categories. While the Geckos deserve hearty congratulations, the neighborhood, parents and teachers should also take a bow for their dedication and hard work.

Student wellness is a high priority and Gullett is proud to be hosting its first ever Nutrition Fair on Wednesday, February 25 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for Geckos and their parents to learn more about physical fitness and how it relates to nutritional awareness through exposure to registered dieticians and cooking demonstrations (that means free samples!) by Whole Foods and Snap Kitchen.

In addition to booths with information on fitness, wellness, and nutrition, there will also be opportunities for the Geckos to test their strength and flexibility.

Can you believe that spring break is just around the corner? That means that the long-standing tradition of Sports Day is even sooner! On the final two days of school leading up to the break, the Geckos get to take the day off from book learning and focus on the critical life skills of physical activity and sportsmanship. And if the fresh air isn't enough to get the Geckos' blood pumping, the popsicles usually do the trick.

Gecko parents, call the babysitter. On March 27 the annual gala and silent auction will be happening at the Shoal Crossing Event Center from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. This is a great way to have parents-only fun, win great prizes and raise money for our wonderful PTA. Stay tuned to school announcements and to the www.gullettgeckos.com website to learn more about purchasing tickets and contributing auction items.

And finally, a shout out is for Boy Scout Troop #55. They were able to organize a visit from the Austin Police Department Helicopter Unit just before the winter break. The helicopter landed right on the Gullett grounds! So cool! Along with an air support conversation, the students got released from class to see the landing and to get acquainted with some of our

Austin ISD police officers and ground support.

Upcoming Events:

February 25 – Nutrition Fair, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

March 12-13 – Sports Day

March 16-20 – Spring Break

March 27 – Gecko Gala, Shoal Crossing Event Center 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

March 28 – Gullett plant sale 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

April 3 – Student holiday, no school for students or staff

April 13 – Author and illustrator visit for the book "Grandfather Gandhi"

We do have openings for second graders for the 2015-2016 school year, including transfers, anyone interested in learning more can stop by the Gullett office.

Breaking News: Alli Fischer has been named the 2015 Gullett Elementary Teacher of the Year!

Gullett is very lucky to have Ms. Fischer as a Kindergarten through 5th Grade Resource Room teacher, a position she has held since August 2011. As a resource teacher, she works with students



Alli Fischer

who have mild-moderate disabilities in both pull-out and push-in settings. Her primary areas of academic focus during these four years have been math, writing, reading, and behavior/social skills training. She also has been the chair of the Special Education Department at Gullett. Ms. Fischer is praised by her colleagues as being a tremendous leader, having an inspiring ability to connect with her students and make learning fun, and for becoming an expert teacher in just 4 short years. Gullett Elementary is a school full of outstanding teachers, and Ms. Fischer is very deserving to be the Gullett Teacher of the Year.

Students, family and community members are welcome to celebrate and congratulate Ms. Fischer on Tuesday, March 10th from 3:00-4:00 in the Gullett Library. Hope to see y'all then! Congrats Ms. Fischer!!! ❖

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All About Lamar!

Gina Ross



We have had a busy start to the semester at Lamar! Prospective Fine Arts Academy Students completed their portfolios and auditions and have had an opportunity to visit our campus. We are excited to see so many new faces around campus.

On Thursday, January 22 and Friday, January 23, Lamar Fine Arts Academy represented the school at the new AISD Performing Arts Center (PAC) Showcase. The new PAC is located in the Mueller development and was paid for through the 2008 AISD bond. It is intended to help the district reach its goal of providing all students access to rich fine arts programming. The PAC includes a 1,200 seat auditorium, a 250 seat black box theater, a 150 seat multipurpose room and a dance rehearsal space. Lamar was represented by students who made the all-city choir, band and orchestra. The Lamar advanced dance students were one of only two middle school dance teams featured at the opening and the famous Lamar jazz factory delighted the crowd with three numbers. We are very proud that so many of our young artists were invited to this prestigious event and had the opportunity to perform for such a large audience in a state of the art performance space.

Congratulations to Abigail Randall, Lamar science and forensics teacher, on earning a Bright Green Futures grant from the City of Austin to design and run a farm stand with the produce we grow in the Lamar garden. The Green Teens Club and Environmental Science classes will be working to implement this in late spring 2015. We are so excited for the opportunity to learn hands-on how we can help our school go green!

Get ready for our Spring Musical, FAME, coming to Lamar February 27 through March 1! The students have been working hard and it promises to be a great show. Tickets will be available to the public the week before the performances so come by the office and get your tickets! ❖

It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

Jill Whiteside Schavrda



2015 McCallum High School and Fine Arts Academy Important Dates:

Student Holidays Feb 16: Student Holiday/Staff Dev.
Mar 16 –20: Spring Break
Apr 3: Staff and Student Holiday

Late Start Dates – On Feb 26 and April 9, teachers will be participating in professional development sessions from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Classes will begin at 10:15 a.m.

McCallum general calendar link: http://www.austinschools.org/campus/mccallum/important_dates.htm

McCallum Sports Schedule link: [http://www.maxpreps.com/high-schools/mccallum-knights-\(austin,tx\)/home.htm](http://www.maxpreps.com/high-schools/mccallum-knights-(austin,tx)/home.htm)

Continued on page 18

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It's Knight Time – McCallum Updates

continued from page 17

February 19, 20, 21 & 28, and March 1, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. / February 22 at 2:00 p.m.: Ghost the Musical Performance– Fine Arts Building Theater

Monday, February 23: ATTENTION RISING 9TH GRADERS TO McCALLUM! Career Pathway Showcase / Choice Sheet Night, Gym & Fine Arts Theater (The old theater)

5:00 p.m. Career Pathway Showcase (GYM), 6:30 p.m. Info Session Begins (Theater) All Rising ninth grade students and their parents are invited to come and receive choice sheet information for the 2015-2016 school year. Hear information on career pathways, HB5, electives and required courses. Meet your new principal and counselors! Please plan on attending if you will be a ninth grader at McCallum next year!

Feb 24, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.: Percussion Recording Concert– Fine Arts Building Theater (FABT)

February 26, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: Emerging Artists Opening in MAC Gallery

February 26, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Inside Out Carnival Concert– Cafeteria

Feb 27: Fine Arts Academy Notification Date. All students applying to the Fine Arts Academy will be mailed a decision letter on Friday, Feb 27. Students will be notified if they are accepted, wait-listed, or declined.

March 4 – 5: UIL Full Orchestra, AISD PAC, Time TBA

March 7, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Fashion Show– MAC Theater

March 24 and 25: Piano Recital– MAC

March 26, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Band Concert– MAC

March 27 – 29, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Theatre One Act and Student Directed Shows in FABT

April 1, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.: Choir Pre UIL Concert– MAC

April 2, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Orchestra Concert– MAC

April 10 and 11, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.: Dance Performance– Mac FABT

Fine Arts Calendar Link: http://www.austinschools.org/campus/mccallum/fine_arts/calendar.htm ❖

Central Park Pediatric Dentistry

Laura Beck

Dr. Daniel Johnson, his wife Kate, and their two cutie daughters moved to Austin from Kansas City a couple years ago to be closer to family, and for Daniel and Kate to build a pediatric dentistry practice of their own, in their own special way. The family settled in Allandale and their oldest daughter began kinder at Gullett this fall. For the practice, they loved the Seton Central area, near Central Market and Central Park, and found a space, and the perfect name: Central Park Pediatric Dentistry. Us Weird Austinites fooled them though, as not many of us think of that area as Central Park!

From the moment you walk in, Central Park Pediatric Dentistry feels different than the other kids' dentist offices I've experienced, which have a bit of a Chuck E Cheese feel to them, with lots of games, bells, and whistles to keep kids busy. Central Park is more zen, a bit like a spa where you'd want to spend a few hours. It is cozy, calm and engaging with a big waiting room with comfy seats where Dr. Johnson meets his patients and their fam-



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The Johnson Family

ilies in a more comfortable setting than the sometimes-scary dental chair.

Dr. Johnson is very patient and friendly, and typically leans toward more conservative treatment recommendations, with a focus on early prevention over treatment. The practice goal is to be a bit smaller, but with deeper personal relationships with patients and families. The practice takes most insurance plans, including public programs and City of

Austin plans, and works with patients on payment plans. And, very unique to Central Park, five dollars from every exam goes to each patient's school of choice!

Dr. Johnson works with other dentists and orthodontists through referrals and coordinated treatment when needed. He shared some great tips with me, Mom of candy-loving six and 10 year old girls. Some good reminders and new suggestions, we share with you here:

Dental Tips for Kids:


- The first trip to the dentist should be around the child's first birthday or six months after the first tooth comes in. This is earlier than most parents realize, and for two important reasons. First, problems don't usually arise this early, but in case they do, early intervention is key. Second, the mouth is very personal space, so getting children used to visits every six months is much easier the younger they begin.
- Brushing twice a day – of course! Always use a brush with extra soft bristles. In an ideal world, we would all brush after every meal and snack. But in reality, even sipping and swishing with water after eating can help rinse the teeth.

- The water/juice debate? Dr. Johnson says other drinks are OK during mealtime, when lots of food is roaming around your teeth anyway. But after meals, especially at night and before bed, stick to water. No bottles of juice or milk bedside!

- Flossing is so important even at an early age– as soon as you see the first teeth touching. While string floss is best, flossers are the next best thing. Anything is better than nothing, and kids don't always have the manual dexterity for string floss [nor do some of us adults, says me!].
- So many kid-loved foods are sticky. Yes, candy and gummies and fruit chews, but also dried fruit and gummy vitamins. All sticky foods, even the healthy ones like raisins, leave a residue on the teeth. Brushing after, or at least rinsing with water, is important.
- You are not crazy, it is true kids are going to the orthodontist earlier now, and getting braces younger, than in "my day." Dr. Johnson says a first assessment visit at around seven years of age if there are spacing and alignment problems, can result in saved time, money, and pain later.
- Space between teeth does not necessarily mean braces. It is a good sign for primary (baby) teeth to have extra room, as this makes them easier to clean, and means more room for permanent teeth later. Spacing is something to monitor over time with your dentist.

Central Park Pediatric Dentistry is open to new patients, and Dr. Johnson would love to see your children! He also welcomes groups to come for a visit with the dentist, or he'll come to your location of choice and speak to your group, whether boy or girl scouts or parenting groups.

For more, see <http://www.myaustinpEDIatricdentist.com/>, call 512-330-4624, or go visit Central Park Pediatric Dentistry at 1005 W 38th Street. ❖




Lee Allbright

Realtor

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Attention Babies, Toddlers and their Parents!

Laura Beck

The Big Baby Bash and Toddler Jam 2015, April 11-12, 2015, is coming right in our hood! For two days, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Shrine Hall, 7811 Rockwood Lane (next door to Toybrary Austin), Big Baby Bash will focus on the parenting experience from pre-pregnancy through preschool.

Day 1 is part education and part baby shower. The day offers expectant parents and couples seeking to get pregnant an opportunity to test drive the best baby products on the market, shop, attend workshops, meet other parents, and win amazing raffle prizes, and features keynote speaker Hollie Schultz of Babygizmo. Babygizmo has over 42 million views on their YouTube channel and Hollie is easily the biggest baby gear authority.

Day 2 is filled with family fun and offers parents with young children up to

age five a chance to play together, attend seminars, shop, learn about schools and win amazing raffle prizes. Both events encourage parents to relax, nibble on delicious goodies, and sip a mocktail/cocktail while learning and shopping! The Big Baby Bash has partnered with the Austin Diaper Bank and will be donating a portion of ticket proceeds to provide diapers to little Austinites most in need as well as doing a diaper drive.

For more, see <http://www.thebigbabybash.com/>. For tickets, see <http://thebigbabybash2015.eventbrite.com>.

Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo

Since the December issue of the newsletter, the major news has been the case of Sidney and Billie Shelton, the 83 year old couple who were mysteriously killed in their Brent-



wood home December 15. The same suspects in the December 6 killing of choir director Kathy Blair are now under investigation for the Sheltons' double homicide. According to a February 1 article in the Austin American Statesman, Shawn Gant-Benalcazar and Timothy Parlin are both in the Travis County jail on other charges. They have not been formally charged in the deaths of the elderly couple, but authorities have reason to believe the two are responsible. Linking Gant-Benalcazar and Parlin to the case has been a huge relief for area residents who were fearful the safety of others was in risk while the murders were unsolved. Austin Police Commander Mark Spangler said that the police are still gathering evidence, and interestingly, two Saturdays before the news broke of Gant-Benalcazar's and Parlin's likely involvement, a forensics team was searching in Shoal Creek just outside the Pony field. When asked what they were doing said they were searching for evidence in a homicide that occurred last month.

None of the other safety news in the last couple of months has been quite as

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sensational, but here is a run-down of what has been going on:

New patrol boundaries for the Austin Police Department went into effect on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. According to an APD Alert, "these new boundaries are the culmination of a nearly year-long research project intended to increase efficiency and improve response times. Because the city population has changed in size and density, the patrol boundaries, which have remained unchanged since January 2011, were in need of assessment. The changes were data driven and made after a thorough examination of annexations, call load, auto crashes and crime statistics, all with the goal of providing better police service to the City of Austin." Just to remind everyone, the density of patrols in Allandale has decreased since this reorganization occurred because in addition to many other factors, we have less 311 and 911 calls than other areas. We want to make sure APD sees the true picture of how many crimes occur in Allandale. Please call 911 any time you want an officer to come immediately (such as if you are observing suspicious behavior, if you think a burglar may still be in your home, etc.). Call 311 and ask

to make a police report for incidents that have already occurred and should be documented such as a break-in after the fact, graffiti, etc.

There were 10 burglary of vehicles (BOVs) in the neighborhood in December and January (on Cary, Whiteway, Silverleaf, Stardust, Pinecrest, Greenhaven, Shoal Creek Boulevard, Stoneway, and Geraghty), and an additional eight (between December 7 and December 24) in the Anderson Lane shopping area. Stealing parcels that are showing in cars during the holidays is common everywhere, and the incidence dramatically fell in January.

There were three burglary of residences (BORs) in December and January (on Ardath, McElroy, and North Loop), and in the North Loop case an arrest was made.

Packages were stolen from porches in December, which is common during the holiday season.

A Commander's Forum was held at the Cornerstone Church on Reinli off I-35.

The APD District Reps were introduced and the new boundaries were discussed, there was a presentation about the dogs that detect explosives and other scents, and a sergeant spoke about the Public Assem-

bly Code Enforcement Team (PACE). The next Commander's Forum will be in May at McCallum High School.

Safety topics on the Allandale list-serv included a discussion about graffiti in general and especially on the soon-to-be-installed sound wall, a homeless encampment within our borders, the idea of installing three-inch screws in strike plates and planting spiky bushes under windows to deter burglars, the fact that there had been a meth house in the neighborhood, a prowler who was caught on video trying a car door handle in a carport on West Terrace, and video of the high end bike thief at it again (not in Allandale) was disseminated.

A group of residents continues to look into making the intersection of Treadwell and Shoal Creek Boulevard safer, and even though city staff did not see any "egregious behavior" when they videotaped the intersection, the city has said they will meet with us and there could be potential for more safety measures.

As discussed earlier in the newsletter, the TAKE10 Compression Only CPR train the trainer class occurred in December, and the ten minute class will occur

Continued on page 22

Enjoy Allandale—get to know your neighbors.

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Neighborhood Watch

Continued from page 21

several times on February 28 (drop in anytime 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. at Northwest Recreation Center).

A resident asked what could be done to slow drivers down on her road as they zoom to the Northwest Little League baseball fields. I have asked the president of NWLL to remind parents that they are driving through neighborhood streets. Let's all try to slow down even if you don't have a child at NWLL.

An ANA safety seminar has been planned for March 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our APD DR Josh Metteauer will be providing safety tips and we may have someone from the city come to talk about bike and pedestrian safety as well.

According to a Citizen Led Austin Safety partnership (CLASP) Alert, the outgoing city council again waived the fees for SxSW and now the Austin Police Department has announced that the plan is to beef up police coverage for this year's SxSW by an additional 120 officers, including 60 patrol officers. The 60 officers possibly could be pulled from the DR, Burglary, and TAC programs. Taking officers from their areas of responsibility to work special events leaves the streets in Austin very low on police coverage. Last year, there were several crime spree during SxSW, including some home burglaries in north-west Austin. Check out this blog for more information: <http://www.lovenorthaustin.com/blog/despise-fee-waivers-apd-will-pull-additional-officers-for-sxsw>

As always, please contact Laura DiCarlo at lhdicarlo@yahoo.com or 512-529-1701 if you have safety questions, concerns, or want to get involved with cleaning up graffiti, becoming a block captain, helping with bike and pedestrian safety, or patrolling by bike or car. Thanks, and be safe! ♦

Where Are They Now?

Kata Carbone

The Allandale Neighborhood Association was formed in 1973 but it wasn't until 1985 that the first newsletter was distributed. Here is another blast from the past, this time from the July 1986 newsletter.

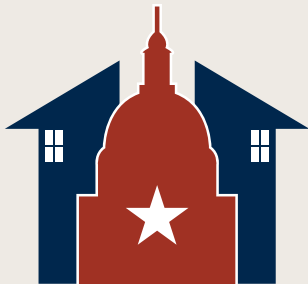
Project Greenscape

Of the 500 live oak seedlings offered by the Allandale Neighborhood Association for distribution recently, all but about a dozen were picked up, according to Frances McIntyre.

The seedlings were a part of Operation Greenscape sponsored by the Austin Chamber of Commerce. Polly Scallorn, Director of Community Involvement, said two similar distributions of tree seedlings were held last fall. She said plans for this fall include making a variety of trees available.

McIntyre, a member of ANA's steering committee, acted as liaison for the project. Bobby Wright, also a steering committee member, picked up the seedlings at Zilker Park and transported them to the neighborhood distribution site.

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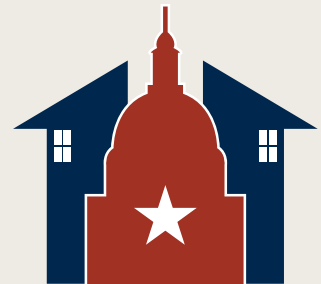


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If you planted one of those live oak seedlings back in 1986, please let us know (email allandale.neighborhood@gmail.com or call 512-454-6571). We'd like to take photos to illustrate that you've helped ensure Allandale's shade canopy is one of our most prized features.

About Frances McIntyre—one of our most prized Allandalers—this was just one small example of her community involvement that spans six decades. A former elementary school teacher, Frances was on the ANA steering committee and was just starting out in real estate when I met her in the mid-80s. Soft spoken and easy going, Frances helped me through the jitters of buying and selling property in Allandale. She has since served on Austin's 38-member Citizens Advisory Task Force that helped engage community participation and guide the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. She was vice chair of Austin's Ethics Commission, served with Austinites for Geographic Representation, and is a long-time member of the League of Women Voters. The League's 2013 Annual Meeting was dedicated to Frances for her "steady and unflappable commitment" to the League's mission. Currently serving as the League's Advocacy Director and Editor of the Voter's Guide, Frances was the League's President (three times), Secretary, and has chaired all manner of committees and candidate forums, including AISD, ACC Board of Trustees, and Austin City Council. If you've paid any attention to discussions about the new City Council meeting structure to enhance public engagement, you'll have heard Frances say that there should be no rules that limit who can speak before Council. Thank you, Frances! ❖

Drivers Take Note: Two Steps, One Sticker

Kata Carbone

Thanks to Betty House, Allandale neighbor extraordinaire, for passing along this timely information. As of March 1, 2015, the State of Texas will transition to a combined vehicle inspection and registration sticker. Vehicle owners will be issued a single blue-bordered sticker to be placed in the corner of the windshield as proof of inspection and registration. Inspection stations will no longer issue inspection stickers. Here's how it works.

Step One: Visit the vehicle inspection station of your choice, pass the vehicle inspection, pay the inspection fee, and retain the Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR) issued to you by the station.

Step Two: Renew your annual vehicle registration by mail, online, or in person. Your inspection status will be verified electronically (a passing inspection is required for registration). If your vehicle passed inspection, but the system is unable to electronically verify it, simply present your valid, passing VIR at the time of registration.

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